

## **REMARKS**

### **FORMAL MATTERS:**

Claims 9-27 were examined. Claims 9, 15-20, 25 and 26 were rejected. Claims 10-14, 21-24 and 27 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base. Claims 1-8 were previously canceled without prejudice.

By this Amendment, claims 9 and 15-20 have been canceled without prejudice and claims 10, 14, 21 and 23-27 have been amended. In particular, claims 10 and 14 have been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of independent claim 9, claim 21 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of claim 20, claims 23 and 24 have been amended for formatting only, and claims 25-27 have been amended to change their dependency from canceled claim 20 to claim 21 and for formatting. These amendments have been made solely for expediting prosecution and allowance of the application. Applicants reserve the right present the canceled claims in a continuation application.

Claims 10-14 and 21-27 are pending after entry of the amendments set forth herein.

### **REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102**

Claims 20 and 25-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by European Patent Application No. 0 396 016 A2 (EP '016). As claim 20 has been canceled and as claims 25 and 26 now depend from allowable claim 21, this rejection has been made moot.

### **REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103**

Claims 9 and 15-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over EP '016 in view of WO 97/38126. As claims 9 and 15-19 have been canceled, this rejection has been made moot.

### **ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER**

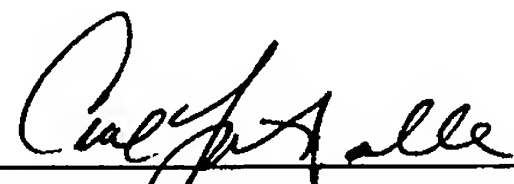
Claims 10-14, 21-24 and 27 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were otherwise indicated to be allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of their rejected independent claims, respectively. Claims 10, 14 and 21 have been so amended. Accordingly, Applicant submits that all of the claims are in condition for allowance, which action is requested.

If the Examiner finds that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extensions of time, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0815, order number LIFE-096CON4.

Respectfully submitted,  
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